[The two points referred to, *viz.*, the establishment of a land mortgage bank and the deposit of Government money in co-operative banks come within the purview of the Banking Enquiry Committee recently constituted. Those points will be considered on receipt of the Committee's report.

The suggestions about the encouragement of co-operative movement by enhancing the pay of the Inspectors and by granting travelling allowance to the honorary workers will also be considered.

A report has been received from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies about the obstacles placed in the way of the officers of the Education Department taking part in co-operative activities. It is under the consideration of the Government.]

30. Suggestions for the advancement of co-operative movement in the State.

MR. P. KUMARA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Alwaye*) said that within the short period of working of the Co-operative Societies Regulation the co-operative movement had gained wide popularity with the result that there were about 1,800 societies with over 2,00,000 members and a working capital of Rs. 53 lakhs. With the rapid development of the co-operative movement, the work in the department had considerably increased and become too much for a single officer to cope with. Consequently the audit reports for the previous co-operative year were published only 9 months after its close. This delay was anything but conducive to the working of societies. With a view to cope with the increased work, it was highly necessary to appoint three Assistant Registrars.

The existing inspectoral staff of 20 Inspectors was quite inadequate to supervise the working of 1,800 societies distributed over 30 taluks. Of them, one Inspector was deputed solely for work in the Central Co-operative Bank, Trivandrum. In British India, there was on an average an Inspector for supervising the work of 25 societies besides a separate staff for auditing their accounts. There were also union societies, supervisors, organisers, etc., to help the Inspectors. But in Travancore the Inspectors had to do all the work connected with the societies and one Inspector had in some places more than 100 societies. For 7 months every year he had to do audit work alone. There was hardly any time to attend to other items of work. The liquidation of many societies was due to improper working due to lack of supervision. The number of Inspectors should be increased to improve such a state of affairs and there should be at least one Inspector for each taluk. The maximum number of societies under the control of each Inspector should also be specified.

The number of cases filed by the societies was increasing rapidly and the recovery of amounts according to the decisions in those cases took a long time. To avoid such delay, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should be invested with the powers of a Dewan Peishkar and the Inspectors with those of Tahsildars under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. That would ensure the speedy recovery of the dues.

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Lastly, the member pressed the need for the establishment of land mortgage banks with a view to improve the economic condition of the ryots.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kumara Pillai, in your representation you first made suggestions with regard to the expansion of the co-operative department. The Government will carefully consider all those suggestions.

Secondly, you advocated the immediate establishment of land mortgage banks. I would only repeat to you what my predecessor has said and that is, Government will consider that question earnestly.

Then with regard to the suggestion that there is some difficulty felt now in executing awards, it must be due to the circumstance that the relevant provision of the Regulation now in force is not being put into operation. There is a provision in the Regulation which enables the award to be transferred immediately to Dewan Peishkars so that they may take action under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. If that rule is properly availed of, the difficulties you referred to can be remedied.

Government do not think that there is any need to follow your suggestion to give the Co-operative Registrar and his subordinates powers under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. They can only ask the Peishkars to expedite the proceedings under the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

31. Co-operative work among the depressed classes.

MR. V. JOHN (*Nominated*) said that in South Travancore there were about 300 villages of depressed classes, but it was deplorable to see that there were only 9 co-operative societies there—8 in Nanjinad and 1 in Edamad. The fewness in the number of societies was due to the fact that most of the depressed class people were illiterate and ignorant of the benefits of co-operation. Being poor they were also not able to be punctual in monetary transactions with co-operative societies. The Unions and the Inspectors had hardly the time to devote for doing propaganda work by preaching co-operative principles. Their activities were confined to the working of the existing societies. The honorary organisers had no interest or enthusiasm in co-operative work, because they were not adequately encouraged. Payment of travelling allowance to them would create some enthusiasm in them and thereby promote the well-being of the existing societies and also the registration of new societies among depressed classes.

In every co-operative society, able and experienced members for the proper carrying on of its working were necessary. Only such members could be put on the managing committee. They should also know the rules and bye-laws of each society, the methods of convening meetings and carrying on correspondence, the maintenance of the several books and registers and the preparation of the necessary

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